III.   AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions/listings of claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for indicating availability of a network resource in a client-server environment, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

querying the network resource to determine network resource availability and response time, and setting a status indicator with <u>respect to</u> the network resource availability;

in the case that the status indicator indicates that the network resource is available, determining whether a query of the network resource is occurring; and

in the case that a query is occurring, indicating the network resource is available only if ~~an expanded~~ <u>a</u> time of the query is less than a specified response time.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein, in the case that the status indicator indicates the network resource is available and a query is not occurring, indicating that the network resource is available.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the querying ~~step~~ includes repeating querying the network resource in the case that the network resource is unavailable.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the querying ~~step~~ includes setting a querying indicator that indicates whether querying is occurring, and the determining ~~step~~ includes checking the querying indicator.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the querying ~~step~~ includes updating an average query completion time using the response time only in the case that the network resource is available.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the specified response time is equal to a value within a threshold of the average query completion time.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ setting the status indicator to unavailable in the case that a client accesses the network resource and the network resource is unavailable.

8. (Currently Amended) A <u>computer</u> system for indicating availability of a network resource in a client-server environment, the system comprising:

a query <u>computer</u> component that determines network resource availability and response time; and

a status <u>computer</u> component that communicates the network resource availability as available only if the network resource is available within a specified response time.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the query component sets a status indicator with <u>respect to</u> the network resource availability, and the status component: a) determines, in the case that the status indicator indicates that the network resource is available, whether a query of the network resource is occurring, and b) indicates, in the case that a query is occurring, the network resource is available to the client only if an time of the query is less than a

specified response time.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the status component indicates, in the case that the status indicator indicates the network resource is available and a query is not occurring, that the network resource is available.

11. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the query component repeats querying the network resource in the case that the network resource is unavailable.

12. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the query component sets a querying indicator that indicates whether querying is occurring.

13. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the query component updates an average query completion time using the response time only in the case that the network resource is available.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the specified response time is defined as a value within a threshold of the average query completion time.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the status component sets ~~the~~ a status indicator to unavailable in the case that a client accesses the network resource and the network resource is unavailable.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a <u>tangible</u> computer useable

medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for indicating availability of a network resource in a client-server environment, the program product comprising:

program code configured to query the network resource to determine network resource availability and response time, and set a status indicator with <u>respect to</u> the network resource availability; and

program code configured to indicate a status of the network resource by:

determining, in the case that the status indicator indicates that the network resource is available, whether a query of the network resource is occurring; and

indicating, in the case that a query is occurring, the network resource is available only if ~~an expanded~~ <u>a</u> time of the query is less than a specified response time.

17. (Original) The program product of claim 16, wherein the status program code also indicates, in the case that the status indicator indicates the network resource is available and a query is not occurring, that the network resource is available.

18. (Original) The program product of claim 16, wherein the querying program code includes program code configured to repeat querying the network resource in the case that the network resource is unavailable.

19. (Original) The program product of claim 16, wherein the query program code includes program code configured to set a querying indicator indicating whether querying is occurring, and wherein the status program code checks the querying indicator to determine whether querying is occurring.

20. (Original) The program product of claim 16, wherein the querying program code includes program code configured to update an average query completion time using the response time only in the case that the network resource is available.

21. (Original) The program product of claim 20, wherein the specified response time is defined a value within a threshold of the average query completion time.

22. (Original) The program product of claim 16, wherein the status program code is further configured to set the status indicator to unavailable in the case that a client accesses the network resource and the network resource is unavailable.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for indicating availability of a network resource in a client-server environment, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

      querying the network resource to determine network resource availability and response time; and

      indicating the network resource is available only if the network resource is determined to be available within a specified response time.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the querying ~~step~~ includes setting a status indicator with <u>respect to</u> the network resource availability, and the indicating ~~step~~ includes: a) determining, in the case that the status indicator indicates that the network resource is available, whether a query of the network resource is occurring, and b) indicating, in the case

that a query is occurring, the network resource is available to the client only if ~~an expanded~~ a time of the query is less than the specified response time.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising, in the case that the status indicator indicates the network resource is available and a query is not occurring, indicating that the network resource is available.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the querying ~~step~~ includes repeating querying the network resource in the case that the network resource is unavailable.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the querying ~~step~~ includes providing a querying indicator that indicates whether querying is occurring, and the determining step includes checking the querying indicator.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the querying ~~step~~ includes updating an average query completion time using the response time only in the case that the network resource is available.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the specified response time is defined as a value within a threshold of the average query completion time.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising ~~the step of~~ setting the status indicator to unavailable in the case that a client accesses the network resource and the

network resource is unavailable.

31. (Currently Amended) A system for deploying a network resource availability indication

application, comprising:

a computer infrastructure being operable to:

receive a query from a client regarding the availability of the network resource;

query the network resource to determine network resource availability and

response time;

set a status indicator with ~~respect to~~ the network resource availability;

determining whether a query of the network resource is occurring in the case that

the status indicator indicates that the network resource is available; and

provide an indication to the client that the network resource is available only if ~~an~~

~~expanded~~ a time of the query is less than a specified response time in the case that a

query is occurring.